

IDEA-ARRA Funds Questions and Answers

The following are detailed questions regarding this topic. For a more general frequently asked questions on this topic, see www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/idea-funding-faq.html.

1. What are the timeframes for use of IDEA ARRA funds?

The funding cycle for the IDEA ARRA funds is February 17, 2009, (the date ARRA was signed) through September 30, 2011. The IDEA ARRA budgets were not “re-set” on July 1, 2010. After initial submission, IDEA ARRA budgets will be in “amendment mode” until September 30, 2011. LEAs will have until then to obligate the IDEA ARRA funds. There will be no carry-over after this date. IDEA ARRA funds not obligated by this date will be returned to the U.S. Department of Education.

2. Are IDEA ARRA funds exempt from time and effort reporting requirements of OMB Circular A-87?

No. Only ARRA State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) are exempt from time and effort reporting requirements.

3. What are the reporting requirements for ARRA funds?

One of the principles of ARRA is to ensure transparency, reporting, and accountability. To support the most effective uses of ARRA funds and accurately measure and track results, recipients must publicly report on how funds are used. ARRA Recovery funds recipients and subrecipients are subject to additional and more rigorous reporting requirements under section 1512 of ARRA. LEAs must report to the DPI where the funds were spent and the number of jobs created or saved.

4. How is the data required under section 1512 of ARRA gathered?

The DPI sends district administrators a survey to collect vendor and employment impact data quarterly. The quarterly surveys are specific to each ARRA grant program. LEAs receive one survey for each ARRA grant program from which they have received reimbursement.

5. How is the ARRA section 1512 data reported?

The DPI reports information from the surveys to the Wisconsin Office of Recovery and Reinvestment, which reports it both to the public via website <http://www.recovery.wisconsin.gov> and to the federal Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board <http://www.recovery.gov/?q=content/recovery-board>.

6. What is the reporting schedule?

The DPI must report to the Wisconsin Office of Recovery and Reinvestment quarterly. LEAs report to the DPI shortly before the DPI’s report is due.

ARRA LEA Survey Reporting Deadlines

<i>Surveys Sent to LEAs on or about</i>	<i>LEA Report Due Date</i>
September 16, 2010	September 23, 2010
December 9, 2010	December 16, 2010
March 17, 2011	March 24, 2011
June 16, 2011	June 23, 2011
September 15, 2011	September 22, 2011

7. Why are IDEA ARRA claims due prior to the end of the calendar quarter?

The data that must be collected to meet the requirements of section 1512 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act includes ARRA funds DPI disbursed to LEAs. This data must be submitted to White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) through the federal data reporting system. The DPI must provide the data to the DOA by OMB's deadline. LEAs must submit claims for expenditures made against the IDEA Recovery flow-through or preschool funds timely, so the claims can be paid and these expenditures can be reported to the DOA.

8. If an LEA made expenditures against the IDEA ARRA funds but did not submit a complete claim timely, what are the consequences?

Timely, complete, and effective reporting under Section 1512 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is a term and condition of receiving Recovery Act funding ([Memorandum M-09-21](#)). Material omissions and significant reporting errors can result in termination of Federal funding and/or initiation of suspension and debarment proceedings of either the recipient or sub-recipient, or both. Further, in some cases, intentional reporting of false information can result in civil and/or criminal penalties.